

NYC RACIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

SUMMER 2022



ABOUT THE RACIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION



The Racial Justice Commission, empowered with the legal authority of a Charter Revision Commission, seizes the transformative potential of this moment in history to identify and propose structural changes and significant policy reforms that advance racial justice and equity and begin to dismantle structural racism for all New Yorkers.

This work is necessary because systemic racism has been and continues to shape our reality.

March 23, 2021: Mayor announces the formation of the Racial Justice Commission, empowered as a Charter Revision Commission, and appoints 11 Commissioners including Chair Jennifer Jones Austin and Vice Chair Henry Garrido.

April 15, 2021: Public full Commission meetings begin.

December 28, 2021: Three proposals delivered to the Office of the City Clerk to be placed on the ballot for 2022 election.

November 8, 2022: Election day – last opportunity for public to vote on the proposals! RJC completes two-year mandate.

BALLOT QUESTION 1: ADD A STATEMENT OF VALUES TO GUIDE GOVERNMENT



This proposal would amend the New York City Charter to:

Add a preamble, which would be an introductory statement of values and vision aspiring toward **“a just and equitable city for all”** New Yorkers; and include in the preamble a statement that the City must strive to remedy “past and continuing harms and to reconstruct, revise, and reimagine our foundations, structures, institutions, and laws to promote justice and equity for all New Yorkers.”

The preamble is intended to guide City government in fulfilling its duties.

BALLOT QUESTION 2: ESTABLISH A RACIAL EQUITY OFFICE, PLAN, AND COMMISSION



This proposal would amend the City Charter to:

Require citywide and agency-specific Racial Equity Plans every two years. The plans would include intended strategies and goals to improve racial equity and to reduce or eliminate racial disparities;

Establish an Office of Racial Equity and appoint a Chief Equity Officer **to advance racial equity and coordinate the City's racial equity planning process**. The Office would support City agencies in improving access to City services and programs for those people and communities who have been negatively affected by previous policies or actions, and collect and report data related to equity; and

Establish a Commission on Racial Equity, appointed by City elected officials. In making appointments to this Commission, elected officials would be required to consider appointees who are representative of or have experience advocating for a diverse range of communities. The Commission would identify and propose priorities to inform the racial equity planning process and review agency and citywide Racial Equity Plans.

BALLOT QUESTION 3: MEASURE THE TRUE COST OF LIVING



This proposal would amend the City Charter to:

Require the City to create a **“true cost of living”** measure to track the actual cost in New York City of meeting essential needs, including housing, food, childcare, transportation, and other necessary costs, and without considering public, private, or informal assistance, in order to inform programmatic and policy decisions; and require the City government to report annually on the “true cost of living” measure.

VOTER EDUCATION CAMPAIGN



The Plan is to execute an **effective, citywide, non-partisan campaign** to educate and inform New York City voters about the three racial equity proposals that will appear on the November 2022 ballot.

The Goal is to reach all 5.5 million registered NYC voters, with a special effort to reach groups protected by the Voting Rights Act.

The Public can support by:

- Hosting an educational forum for friends and neighbors (in person or virtual)
- Sharing information about our ballot measures/get out the vote on social media

STAY IN TOUCH



Visit the website to learn more about the NYC Charter, the Commission, and the 2022 proposals: nyc.gov/racialjustice



Comments and questions from the public can be sent to racialjustice@charter.nyc.gov



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